

REMARKS

Claim 29 is currently amended.

Claims 4, 6-8, 16-19, 21, 22, 26, 28, 31 and 32 are canceled.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-15, 20, 23-25, 27 29, 30, 33 and 34 are previously presented.

Claims 35-48 are withdrawn.

Claim 29, which depends from claim1, is currently amended to read on the following:

“A thermoform process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

prior to compressing the half molds of the thermoforming mold fusing the compression molded covered first headliner part to the vacuum molded second headliner part thereby forming the covered unified part; positioning wiring, duct work and reinforcing components into what will become the interior compartment.”

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 9-12, 20, 23-24, 25, 27, 29, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holtrop (U.S. Patent 4,529,641) in view of van Damme et al (reinforced Plastics, July/August 1999, pages 48-50), Provan (U.S. Patent 5,2672,827), Byrna (U.S. Patent 6,322,658), Breezer (U.S. Patent 5,635,129), Steward (U.S. Patent 4211590), and Haardt (U.S. Patent 5,180,628). Holtrop teaches a foam, which would obviously have enhanced the acoustics of the headliner.

Currently amended claim 29 no longer reads on acoustic enhancing materials, such as foam. Using Holtrop's process the three-dimensional structures (i.e. cavities) are formed after the mold is sealed for pressurizing with air, and therefore it would not be

possible to preload an interior cavity with wiring, duct work and reinforcing components. In Applicants' invention the cavities are formed by the compression and vacuum molding steps prior to fusing into unified part, and the cavities can be preloaded. As previously stated, since Holtrop unifies the two laminates and then forms the cavities, there are no cavities which could be preloaded. Additionally, Holtrop teaches pressurized molding with the potential for vacuum assist, while Applicants' claim compression and vacuum molding. Claim 29 is respectfully allowable.

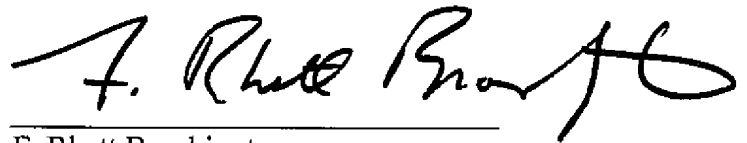
Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider his rejections in light of the prior arguments addressing all the claims in the prior amendment, the current amendment of claim 29, and the current arguments.

CONCLUSION

Applicant would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned representative at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 1, 2006



F. Rhett Brockington
Patent Agent for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 29,618
DOUGHERTY CLEMENTS
1901 Roxborough Road, Suite 300
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211
Telephone: 704/366-6642
Facsimile: 704/366-9744

Attorney's Docket 3699